

A HORRIBLE DEED.

FOUR PEOPLE BURNED TO DEATH AT OMAHA.

JOHN CUMMINGS' AWFUL CRIME.

In a Fit of Insane Rage He Deliberately Upset a Lamp, Filled His House and Himself, His Wife, Baby and Grandmother Are Cremated—A 12-Year-Old Boy the Only Witness.

OMAHA, Neb., Jan. 1.—On marble slabs at the city morgue lie the charred remains of the family of John Cummings, father, mother, baby and grandmother are there, awaiting the outcome of the coroner's inquiry into the causes of the tragedy, which started the city yesterday morning. Nothing in Nebraska annals approaches the deed for horror.

Cummings had been in ill health for some time, and according to 12-year-old Tommie Fox, who was present, he deliberately set fire to his own house and caused the death of his mother-in-law, his wife and his 1-year-old baby in the flames. The little boy tells a straightforward story, and when asked how the fire originated, he said:

"Cummings was sitting on the edge of the bed in the rear room where Mrs. Cummings also was with the baby. Another person in the room was Mrs. Fox, the mother of Mrs. Cummings, my aunt. There was a fuss about something, and Cummings upset the lamp and closed the door, compelling all the inmates to stay there. They cried, but he refused to let any of them out."

Miss Nellie Fox, who is a relative of Mrs. Cummings, said that she was a frequent visitor to the house; that Cummings had been sick for a long time. She disputed her brother's statement about Cummings having purposely knocked down the lamp to burn the inmates, but the boy joined in that he saw him do it. He added that when he first took notice he saw Cummings sitting on the bed crying.

The basement of the house is occupied by John Stuart, who has a contract for feeding the city jail prisoners. Stuart and his assistant, Dennis Sexton, were in that part of the basement directly beneath the room in which the bodies were found up to the time the fire broke out. Sexton gave a vivid description of the scene in the room, immediately before the flames were detected, and confirms, in many respects, the story of the boy who witnessed the dreadful tragedy.

"The trouble that resulted in the fire up there began early Saturday night," said Mr. Sexton. "I heard them swearing up there all the evening. The disturbance increased toward midnight and frequent oaths were heard. I distinguished the voice of a boy, a woman and two men. Finally about 3 o'clock a terrible scuffle commenced. From the noise made by the heavy shoes of the men as they pushed each other across the floor, and from the manner in which they cursed I knew they were having a desperate fight."

"Suddenly there was a thud over in the little room at the north in which the bodies were found, as if one of the men had fallen. He did not attempt to rise, and I heard the other man take several steps and then heard a woman scream. She yelled, 'My God!' and then gasped as if being choked. A moment later another body fell on the floor. This was followed almost instantly by the crash of heavy glass, and I saw the flames break out through the small window in the room where the bodies were found. For a few minutes a confusion of oaths, screams, and then all was still."

KILLED HIS BRIDE.

Professor Shortridge, a well-known educator at a school near Grip, MEDIA, Pa., Jan. 1.—Switth C. Shortridge, principal of the famous Media academy for boys, while out promenading yesterday with his wife, who was a bride of only a month, shot and instantly killed her.

For three weeks Professor Shortridge has been confined to his home with the grip. His wife was faithful, untiring nurse, but he did not seem to improve rapidly. Yesterday morning he took a walk with his wife on East Media, passing people without his usual sign of recognition. A few minutes later, while passing through some woodland on Jefferson street, those who were in that neighborhood were startled by hearing six shots, and, looking, saw what seemed to be a scuffle on the street. Among those who were standing by was Chief of Police McKiff, who ran to the spot, where he found Mrs. Shortridge dead and the frenzied man clinging to her and calling for her to come back to him.

A six-shooting, 32-caliber revolver was lying empty by the side of the dying woman when the bystanders approached. Professor Shortridge attempted to drive them off, and threw himself on the body of his wife, now rapidly being chilled in death.

The chief of police arrested and took him to the lockup. Here it was found he was not fully dressed, being still in his night shirt.

Professor Shortridge is a member of an old Quaker family. He graduated from Harvard university with honors, and was the leading member of his class in physical exercises.

An Elopement From St. Louis. ST. LOUIS, Mo., Jan. 1.—A sensation was developed here last night when it was learned that two well-known St. Louisans had eloped. Mr. C. V. E. Meacham having abandoned his wife and taken with him in his flight the wife and two children of Martin L. Becker, general freight claim agent of the Wabash railway. Meacham has been prominent in business and politics in this city for years. Mr. Becker has pursued his wife to secure the return of his children. The elopers have been located in New York city.

COLORADO STILL IN IT.

Report of Her Condition by the Business Men's Convention.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 1.—The business men of the state, assembled in convention recently, appointed a committee to prepare a statement of the condition, resources and future prospects of the state. The committee says:

In consequence of the increased purchasing power of gold, the annual Colorado gold product shows a remarkable increase, as follows: 1889, \$3,626,217; 1890, \$4,016,299; 1891, \$4,767,880; 1892, \$5,539,621. The gold output of Colorado for 1893 is estimated at \$5,300,000.

The Colorado output of coal and coke for 1893 has not fallen far short of that of 1892, which was 3,771,000 tons of coal and 355,000 tons of coke. Over 1,000,000 tons of Colorado coal was shipped to Kansas, Nebraska and Texas.

The petroleum output of one oil field in Colorado for 1893 was 2,000 barrels per day, entirely supplying Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Utah and New Mexico.

CHICAGO STOCK YARDS.

Annual Statement—A Decrease in Receipts of Cattle and Hogs.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—Secretary George T. Williams of the Union Stock Yards Transit company has completed his work on the company's annual statement, and it is a document of considerable importance. It shows that the receipts of cattle were 3,107,403, a decrease of 434,000; hogs, 9,957,178, a decrease of 77,000; calves, 210,557, a decrease of 31,000; sheep, 3,031,174, a decrease of 900,000; horses, 82,762, a decrease of 2,000. Shipments of cattle at 900,183, a decrease of 121; calves, 13,823, a decrease of 8,000; hogs, 2,149,410, a decrease of 800,000; sheep, 443,865, a decrease of 1,000; horses, 70,011, a decrease of 4,000.

The value of stock of 1893 fell below that of last year, reaching only \$249,542,375, while in the twenty-eight years, or since 1865, it reached the enormous sum of \$1,950,765,103. In 1892 the valuation of the stock handled was \$253,836,502.

DEMAND LOWER RENTS.

Mill Men at Carnegie's Works Working to Secure a Reduction.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 1.—The mill men at the Carnegie works Beaver Falls, have inaugurated a movement which will probably be joined by all the wage earners in that vicinity to secure a general reduction of rents. The men who have recently been reduced in wages insist that it is impossible to continue paying high rates on low wages and that the rent on rents must correspond with the cut in their earnings. On the same lines an effort will be made to secure something in the shape of concessions in prices for the leading mercantile establishments, including butchers, bakers, grocers, etc. A similar movement has been started among the business men and workmen at McKeesport, and during the week a demand will be made on all landlords for reduced rents.

Better Prospects With the New Year.

MOSKOWITZ, Pa., Jan. 1.—The opening of the new year will see most of the mines in the lower pools pay 25 cents for digging. In the fourth pool the recognized rates in most cases is 2 cents, although some of the mines are paying less. In the Elizabeth neighborhood the Walton company closed down pending a settlement of the rate question, but on the whole the outlook for the diggers is a little better than seemed possible two months ago. The men are showing wonderful unanimity in the demand for organization now while all the conditions are favorable and the organizers are accomplishing wonders.

Killed by His Divorced Wife.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—For two years Daniel Healy has been a divorced man. Yesterday he called on his former wife to wish her a happy New Year. She ordered him from the house and he refused to go. Then Mrs. Healy took the lids off the stove and tried to smother Healy out. He stood it better than she, however, and Mrs. Healy was compelled to leave. She sent Thomas Seale to eject Healy and Seale was knocked senseless with a poker. Healy then left the house. When he returned and demanded admittance Mrs. Healy fired at him with a revolver. The bullet struck Healy in the groin, inflicting a probably fatal wound.

Forged Secretary Herbert's Name.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—The call announces what purports to be a decision in the court martial at Mare Island in the case of Richard Ashbridge, past assistant surgeon, United States Navy. Ashbridge comes from a prominent Philadelphia family. It was charged before the court martial that the young surgeon had forged the signature of Secretary of the Navy Herbert to a telegraphic message of instruction to Captain Howison at Mare Island. It is said the court martial sustains the charges and recommends the dismissal of Ashbridge from the service.

Another Kansas City Banker Arrested.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 1.—John Reid, ex-president of the Western Trust and Savings association, which failed last July, was arrested Saturday night upon a warrant sworn out by E. S. Canoy charged with having received a deposit when the bank was in a failing condition. He passed the night in jail and was released yesterday on \$3,000 bond.

Utah's Mineral Product.

SALT LAKE, Utah, Jan. 1.—Wells Fargo & Co.'s statement of the mineral product of Utah for the year 1893 shows the export value is \$7,935,401. Computing gold and silver at mint value and other metals at their value at the seaboard would increase the value of the product to \$12,502,074.

Cutting Prices on Illuminating Oil.

PUEBLO, Col., Jan. 1.—The Continental oil company, the Standard Western oil company, on account of competition, has cut the wholesale price of illuminating oil from seven to seven cents per gallon, and the retail price is ten cents. The Florence oil and refining company met the cut.

TROUBLE IS AHEAD.

THE "BLACK TOMAHAWK" INDIAN LAND TITLE CASE.

MANY LEGAL DIFFICULTIES ARISE.

The Recent Decision of the Interior Department that the Status of a Child Born of an Indian Woman and a White Father Follow the Condition of the Father Likely to Play Havoc.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—There is quite serious trouble ahead in regard to the title to our recently acquired Indian lands—an empire themselves in extent. The development of the difficulty has been gradual, but the gravity of the matter is not fully appreciated, and it is quite probable that the question may come up for action immediately on the reassembling of congress. In fact just before congress dispersed for the Christmas holidays Senator Kyle of South Dakota, December 21, introduced a resolution in the senate which brought out the essential facts of the difficulty.

Mr. Kyle's preamble recited that by article 12 of the treaty between the United States and the Sioux Indians it was provided that "no treaty for the cession of any portion or part of the reservation herein described, which may be held in common, shall be of any validity or force against the said Indians unless exercised, executed and signed by three-fourths of all the adult male Indians occupying or interested in the same," and further that "the two acts of Congress, both dated March 2, 1889, entitled 'acts to divide a portion of the Sioux nations of Indians in Dakota into separate reservations, and to assist the Indian title to the remainder, and for other purposes, and the appropriation bill, approved March 2, 1889, show upon their face that they were signed by a number of adult Indians of the whole blood, less in number than the three-fourths as provided in the said treaty, and that in order to obtain the necessary three-fourths aforesaid divers mixed bloods were solicited, and were permitted to, and did sign, such treaty made by the commission on the part of the United States, acting under such acts of congress dated as aforesaid, March 2, 1889."

"And whereas, the secretary of the interior of the United States has decided, as it is claimed, that divers of the mixed bloods who signed as aforesaid, such treaty made with said commission, are not Indians in contemplation of law, and that they and their families are not entitled to any rights or privileges whatever in the land, the secretary of the interior is directed to transmit to the senate forthwith copies of all orders, opinions and decisions that he has given in respect to the said mixed bloods, together with copies of all reports, etc., pertaining thereto."

All these legal difficulties have been brought to the front by the recent decision of the interior department in what is known as the "Black Tomahawk" case, that the status of a child born of an Indian woman and a white father follows the condition of the father. This decision, though involving no new principle of law, has been suspended because of its far-reaching effects. Carried out to its logical conclusion, it would invalidate practically all our Indian treaties. Over 100,000 acres were acquired under treaty agreements with the Sioux alone, and a large proportion of the signatures to that agreement were half breeds who, according to the "Black Tomahawk" decision, are not to be "adult male Indians occupying or interested" in the same.

The same condition of facts will apply to the agreements entered into with Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indians in Oklahoma, ceding about 1,000,000 acres of land. It is quite likely that other agreements of former years, and some others of recent date will be affected by the ruling, and thereby the titles of settlers who have taken up homes on this land will be impaired. The subject is such a serious one, and so surrounded by abuses and confusion that it will certainly call for prompt attention. Some enabling act will have to be passed to quiet titles if the "Black Tomahawk" decision is to stand.

A Speculator Kills Himself.

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 1.—Stephen A. James, a speculator in cattle and hogs at the stock yards, called on his estranged wife Saturday night. She declined to see him and he shot himself through the head in the hallway, doing in a few moments.

Printing House in a Receiver's Hands.

MACON, Ga., Jan. 1.—The large publishing and printing house of J. W. Burke & Co. of this city was placed in the hands of receivers. The liabilities are between \$50,000 and \$100,000, assets about the same figure.

Newspaper Man Married.

WARRENSBURG, Mo., Jan. 1.—Mr. Charles D. Middleton, business manager and one of the proprietors of the Daily and Weekly Star, was married at noon yesterday to Miss Lillian Harrison of this city.

A Murderer Hangs Himself.

PINE BLUFF, Ark., Jan. 1.—J. D. McDermost, murderer of G. N. Brooks, who found hanging in his cell in the local jail, he having suicided, using a rope made of his bed clothes.

A Thousand Cholera Victims.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—A dispatch from Madeira says: A thousand deaths from cholera have occurred at Tenerife, one of the Canary islands, since the beginning of the outbreak.

Erecting a New Steel Rail Mill.

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 1.—The Cambria Iron company has begun the erection of a new steel rail mill, the estimated cost of which will reach \$1,000,000.

HORRIBLE CRUELTY.

Details of an Attack by Cossacks Upon a Church at Kresche.

COLOGNE, Jan. 1.—The Cologne Zeitung publishes full details of the attack upon the Catholic church at Kresche, in the government of Kevo, by Cossacks last month. This account of the massacre fully confirms the report originally sent out and which afterward was officially denied. The correspondent of the Zeitung adds that the Cossacks were guilty of incredible barbarity and cruelty.

They lanced and knouted the defenseless people whom they drove from the churches. Women, as well as men, were included among their victims. The dead and mutilated were thrown into a lime pit near the church. The sacred ornaments were taken from the edifice, broken into pieces and thrown into a cesspool. The Cossacks, after this, were allowed to plunder the village.

THE DEATH ROLL.

A Supreme Judge Dead.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 1.—J. E. Bennett, presiding judge of the supreme court of South Dakota, died very suddenly of heart failure in this city yesterday evening. He had been judge since the beginning of statehood, and last November was elected for another term.

DALLAS, Tex., Jan. 1.—Judge A. B. Norton, a prominent jurist, died here yesterday.

Captain J. C. Alsworth Dead.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1.—Captain J. C. Alsworth, an 1849 pioneer of California and Oregon and three times a millionaire, died at his home in Oakland yesterday afternoon.

Nathaniel Wheeler Dead.

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Jan. 1.—Hon. Nathaniel Wheeler, president of the Wheeler and Wilson Sewing Machine company, died yesterday from stomach troubles.

"Deacon" Richardson Dead.

BROOKLYN, N. Y., Jan. 1.—William Richardson, or better known in Brooklyn as "Deacon," the railroad magnate, died at his home here yesterday.

Denver Saving Bank Resumes.

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 1.—The Denver Savings bank, which succumbed to the panic of last July, only after a most stubborn fight, will report for business to-morrow. The People's Savings bank has abandoned the attempt to resume, and will pay a dividend of 10 percent on \$955,000 of proven claims next Tuesday.

Schaefer Going on the Stage.

NEW YORK, Jan. 1.—Jake Schaefer is going on the stage as a star. He has entered into copartnership with ex-variety performers Ward and Vose, and will appear with them next season in a farce comedy. In the third act he is to give an exhibition of fancy shots with A. W. Spinks, the contract calling for 125 weeks, beginning the first week in April.

Killed by an Express Train.

BALTIMORE, Md., Jan. 1.—Three persons were instantly killed by a New York express train at Patuxent on the Baltimore & Potomac railroad, eighteen miles from this city last night. The victims were an aged couple, Thomas P. Narley and his wife, of Patuxent, and their 10-year-old grandson. All were in a carriage, on the way to the house of a friend.

Idaho's Production of Metals.

BOISE, Id., Jan. 1.—Statistics compiled by the Boise City National bank show the value of the three principal metals produced in Idaho during 1893, as follows: Gold, \$1,645,000; silver, \$1,000,000; lead, \$775,000. Total, \$3,420,000. This shows a total decrease of over \$3,000,000 as compared with last year.

Lucy Stone's Remains Cremated.

BOSTON, Jan. 1.—The body of Lucy Stone, the philanthropist and defender of the rights of women, was incinerated yesterday at the crematory at Forest Hill, which has recently been opened. The ashes will be placed in an urn and delivered to Dr. Blackwell, the husband of Mrs. Stone.

Amusewell Codina Tries to Kill Himself.

LONDON, Jan. 1.—A Barcelona dispatch says the anarchist, Codina, in prison there on the charge of having tried to murder General Campos and of having been implicated in the Liceo theater outrage, tried to commit suicide in his cell by opening one of his veins with a piece of glass. He was discovered in time and his attempt frustrated.

New Paper in Pueblo, Col.

PUEBLO, Col., Jan. 1.—The Pueblo Daily Journal published its first issue this afternoon. It will appear as an afternoon paper until about March 1, and issue a Sunday morning edition with full report. After March 1 it will come out both morning and evening.

Mara Futs Brennan to Sleep.

IOWA CITY, Iowa, Jan. 1.—A light glove contest to a finish for a purse of \$500 and door money between James Mara of this city and Paddy Brennan of Davenport took place here Saturday night, about 200 being in attendance. Both men sustained considerable punishment, but Mara won in the seventh round.

J. M. Lacy Very Ill.

PITTSBURGH, Kan., Jan. 1.—It is authoritatively reported that J. M. Lacy, late secretary and treasurer of the United Mine workers of Kansas and Missouri, is lying at the point of death at his home in Midean, his physician describing his malady to alcoholic poisoning.

Two Suicides in Pittsburgh, Pa.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Jan. 1.—Two well-known men of this section committed suicide yesterday. They were H. H. Grafton of Sewickley, commercial traveler for the T. H. New White Lead company, and W. W. Danohue, an old man, of Mercer.

Chicago's Increase in Population.

CHICAGO, Jan. 1.—At a banquet of business men last night, S. Greeley, a statistician, submitted figures showing the population of Chicago is 2,645,000.

HANDSHAKING.

A New Year's Reception Makes the President Tired.

But He Has To Stand It For Custom's Sake.

STANDING IN LINE.

People Who Are Anxious to Grasp His Hand.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1.—[Special.]—The New Year's reception at the White House starts up another social season in the national capital. For the first time since the winter of 1888-9 the common people will have a chance to shake Mr. Cleveland by the hand. Twice a year during a president's term of office the masses have an opportunity to get at him. These occasions are the New Year's day reception and the public levee. Tradition has ordained that a president shall in this manner throw open his doors and bid whosoever will to come. As may be imagined, the people need no urging. They arrive at the White House early in the morning and stay as long as they have to, which usually is a long time. The crowd is so vast and the line of handshakers so slow in its movement that hours are required to "work off" the whole assemblage. There is always a great deal of natural and pardonable curiosity to see a real live president of the United States, to shake his hand and look him in the eye. This year proves no exception to the rule. In fact, the curiosity is greater than usual, for nearly every one desires to see how the president looks after all these stories about his failing health, and also to have a look at Mrs. Cleveland, now that she has become a social matron. The women naturally wish to see what changes have wrought in her and to compare the mother of two fine girls to the bride of the White House.

Besides, there are the wives of the cabinet ministers, who always assist the president and the mistress of the executive mansion at these times. Mrs. Carlisle, Mrs. Lamont and Mrs. Gresham are known here of old, the last named having been in society and assisted at White House functions when her husband was postmaster general in the Arthur administration. Mrs. Olney, Mrs. Blount and Mrs. Smith are newcomers, and the masses of people, who have been reading so much in the newspapers about these great ladies, come in droves to improve their only opportunity to see them in full evening costume.

A Curiosity Satisfied.

It is not to be wondered at that we have big crowds at these White House receptions. By curious to see these people, who is a universal trait of human nature. It is by no means confined to people who are not in society. Half the social activity of the capital is based on what might be called turf hunting—the desire to meet great men and women, to have one's name printed side by side with theirs in the columns of the newspapers. The motive that actuates the fine gentlemen and ladies who drive to the White House in their carriages on the occasion of card receptions is the same that moves the thousands who cannot afford carriages on New Year's day and the evening of the public levee.

As early as 9:30, or 10 o'clock in the morning people begin arriving at the White House. They know very well that the doors will not be opened until noon, and that they will have to stand in line all that time. But between arriving at 10 and securing a front position and being admitted to the great house and the presence of its great master, and arriving at 12 only to stand two or three hours in line, now and then moving up a pace or two, there is not much choice. If there is a preference, it is in favor of the early arrival, for then the guests are taken to the city to all concerned, the president and his assistants are good natured, because they are not tired, and there are not so much hurrying and jostling as there are later on. The reception begins promptly at noon, when the president and his company sweep down the grand staircase and take their positions in the blue parlor. The Marine band plays "Hail to the Chief," and Director Fairbank swings his baton with an energy which won't continue through more than two or three numbers. Then the doors are thrown open, and the people are admitted, running the gauntlet of a line of policemen, who see that good order is maintained.

The Line of Receivers.

The president stands at the head of the receiving column, with Mrs. Cleveland next to him. Ladies of the cabinet, in the order of their husbands' rank under the presidential succession law, fill out the line. Only the president indulges in handshaking, and he merely presses the fingers which are popped into his and exclaims, "Glad to see you." It is great fun for the visitors, but tiresome work for the president. After an hour or so the officials of the White House, and the great number of the crowd. If there is still a great number of people waiting, orders are given to "rush 'em through." Then the injunction is passed along the line, and "Step lively," "Hurry along there," "Don't stop," are the exclamations frequently heard. The president does his best to facilitate matters. It is a very short while that he gives, not to say a cold shake. The New Year's caller who has stood two hours in line, with aching limbs and cold feet, is run through the mill so quickly, gets such a fleeting glimpse of Grover and emerges with so intangible and shadowy a recollection of having seen a big man and a row of elegantly attired women that he wonders why he was such an idiot as to go to all that trouble in order to see such a dissolving view sort of show.

A Job Lot.

After all, the people are the show. They are an assortment of jobs. Any of them are as good people as you would care to know in this world or the next, but for the most part they are unfashionable. They are of all races, white and black, young and old. Five-sixths of them are women. The men do not seem to be consumed by much of this sort of thing. They are the good people who have any social pretensions at all do not go near these New Year's receptions. To do so is to confess you have not been invited to one of the



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